

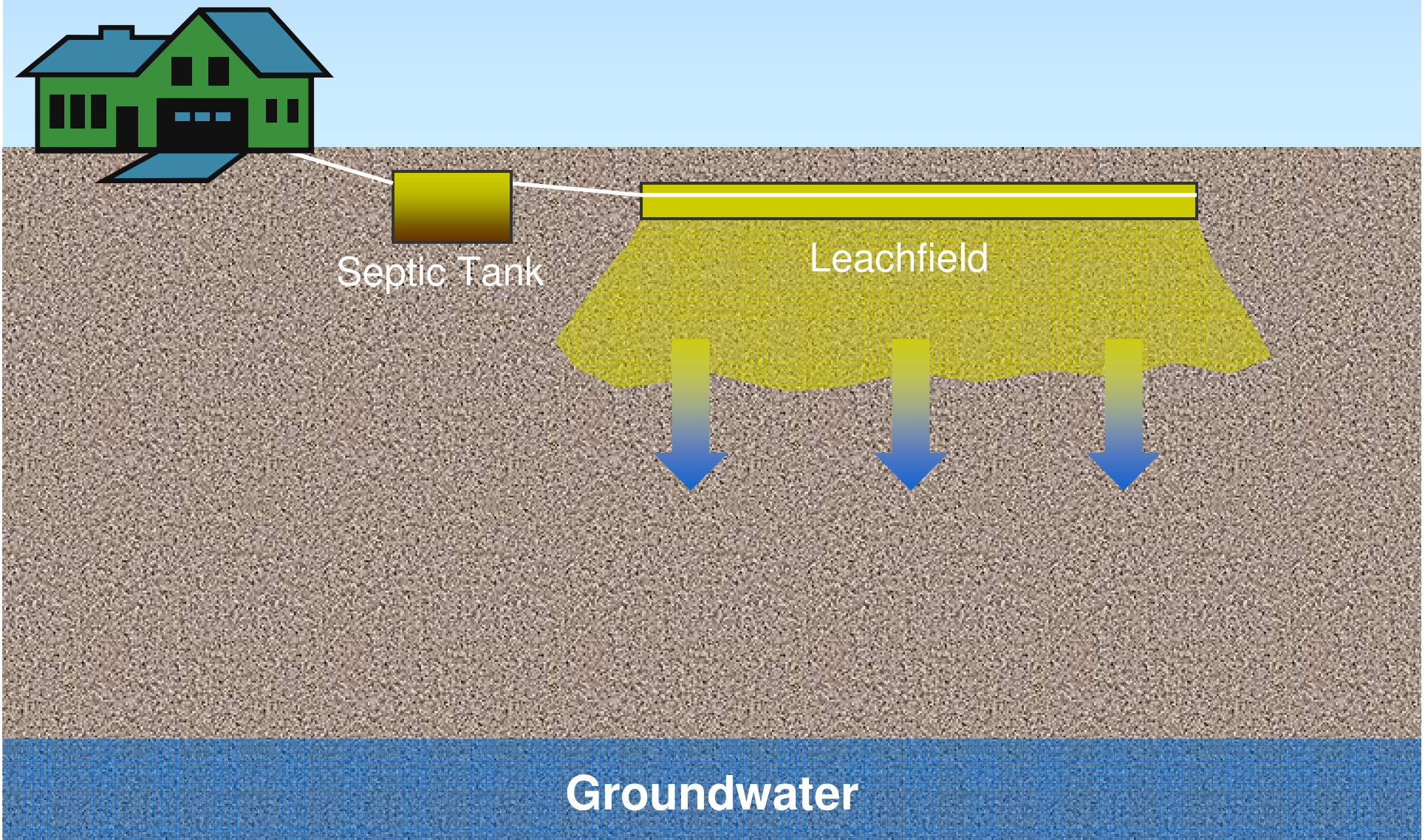
Basin Plan Amendment for Onsite Implementation Program (plan for regulating onsite systems)

May 5, 2011

Sorrel Marks

Central Coast Water Board Staff Report

Proper Septic System Function



Water Code Requirements

- Water Code requires authorization for discharge
- Onsite system => discharge waste
- Authorization in WDR or Waiver of WDR
- Waiver implemented since 1983
- Waivers expired in 2004
- Individual WDR cumbersome & expensive
- Does not comply with Water Code requirements

Basin Plan Onsite Criteria

- Adopted in 1983
- Siting, design, construction, maintenance & mgmt.
- Low maintenance & low tech systems
- Effective low cost treatment
- Long-term water quality protection
- Applied in local permitting

2008 Criteria Update

- Update 25-year old Basin Plan criteria
- Added and clarified definitions
- Onsite management plans required & described
- Additional treatment for very fast percolating soils
- Certified professional design on slopes >20%
- Prohibited discharge in 25-year flood plain
- Fill to be designed as disposal area
- Brine disposal must be consistent with management plan
- Retrofit of properly-functioning systems not required
- Board adopted criteria, legal issues with waiver

2009 Implementation Update

- Renew waiver that expired in 2004
- Incorporate waiver into Basin Plan
- Consistent Basin Plan compliance
- Guidance for Onsite Management Plans
- Local agencies oversight most effective
 - address community-specific conditions
 - most already implementing oversight
- Permit streamlining benefits stakeholders
 - Efficient compliance with state law
 - Minimize time and cost to applicant
 - Proactive and long-term water quality protection

2011 Revisions (this action)

- Purpose – update Basin Plan criteria and waiver
- Waiver for existing onsite systems
- Waiver for new systems that meet Basin Plan criteria or OMP
- Revisions described in Staff Report (pages 4-6)
 - Definitions expanded & background added
 - Onsite Management Plan detail added
 - Requirements consolidated from various sections
 - Board approval of Onsite Management Plans
 - Reorganized – implementation brought forward
 - Clarify conditions of waiver
 - Consistent terminology
- Consistent with State Board staff recommendations

Issues of Public Concern

- Cost to local agency of onsite mgmt plan
 - Activities already implemented by local agencies
 - Utilize available information
 - Prevents cost of correcting problems
 - OMP condition of waiver
- Limits secondary units on less than two acres
 - 1983 requirement clarified
 - Alternative criteria in onsite management plans
- Work with local agencies to develop program
 - Local agency outreach meetings
 - Scoping workshops & Water Board meetings
 - Website information page
 - Draft documents circulated for public comment

Conditions of Waiver

Without Local Onsite Mgmt Plan

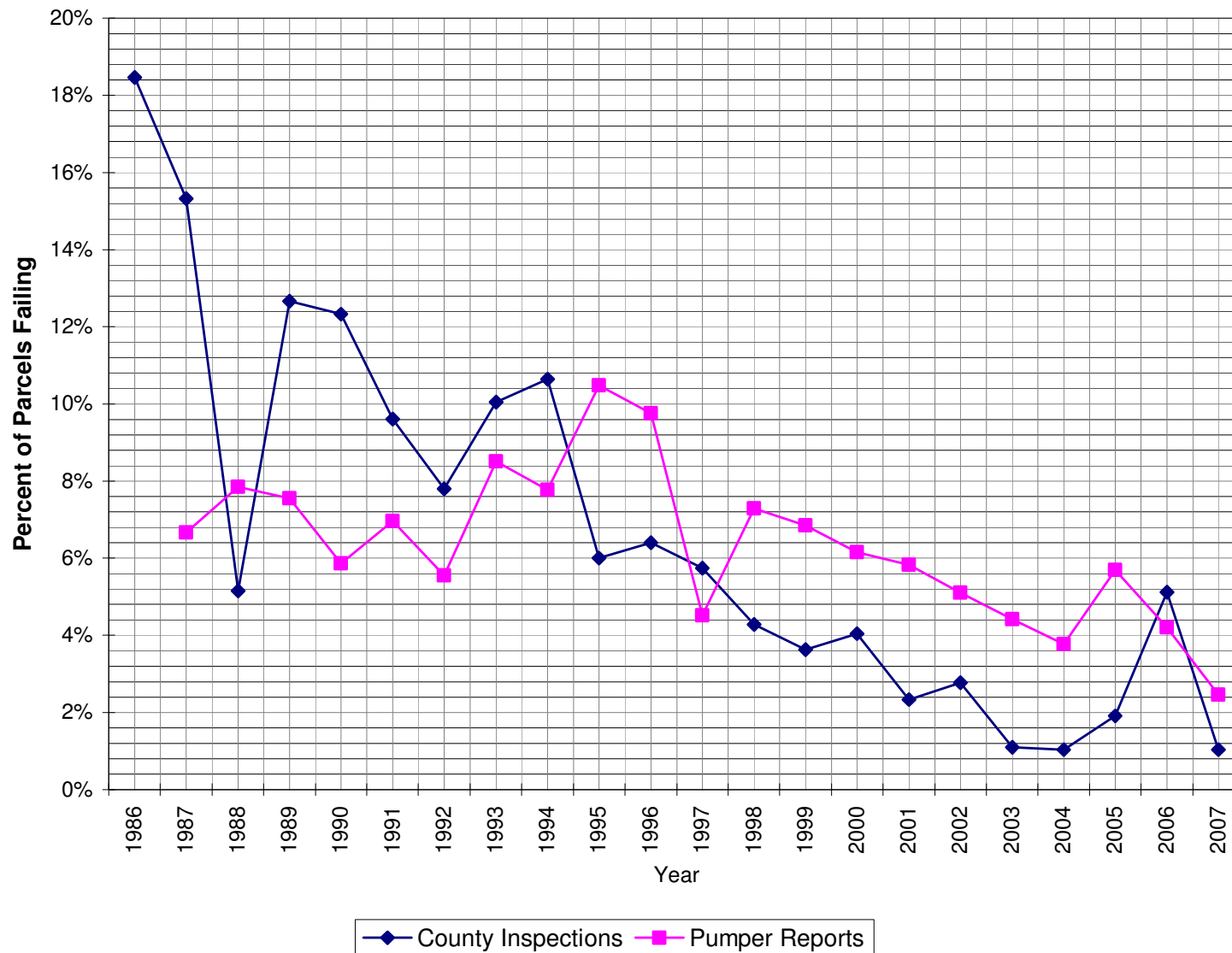
- Submittal of application
- \$560 fee (set by State Board)
- Application documents consistency with Basin Plan
- Staff review & enrollment
- Local permitting procedures

With MOU & Onsite Mgmt Plan

- Application waived
- No application fee
- System consistent with local onsite management plan
- Local permitting procedures

Observed Failures in the San Lorenzo Watershed

Reduction after implementing onsite management plan



Work Outstanding

- Submit Basin Plan Amendment to State Water Board and OAL for review and approval
- Develop MOUs with local permitting agencies
- Assist local agencies with onsite mgmt plans
- New onsite systems - continue status quo for limited time (1 year) while developing MOUs and onsite management plans

Corrections

p.4 editorial correction

p.8 waiver of ROWD and WDR

“For an onsite wastewater system to be eligible for a conditional waiver of Report of Waste Discharge and Waste Discharge Requirements, local governing jurisdictions must develop and implement programs to ensure conformance with this Basin Plan (as found in the following sections) and local regulations and enter into memorandum of understanding with the Central Coast Water Board.”

p.9 Local management plan recommended (required as condition of waiver)

“5. Onsite Wastewater Management Plans should be prepared and implemented for urbanizing and high density areas served by onsite wastewater systems.”

Corrections

p.10 delete redundant paragraph

“2. Onsite wastewater management plans shall be prepared and implemented for urbanizing and high density areas served by onsite wastewater systems.”

p.10 clarify management plan components

- Survey and evaluation of information regarding effectiveness of existing onsite systems.
- Water quality (groundwater and surface water) evaluation program.

Amendment Conclusions

- Update needed to clarify 2008 & 2009 Basin Plan Amendments for State Board approval
- Update expired waiver
- Long-term protection of surface water, groundwater and public health

Action Recommended

Item No. 18

Adopt Resolution No. R3-2011-0004
as proposed w/corrections